



Labour Market Bulletin

Ontario

July 2016



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Ontario, including the regions of Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula, Kingston—Pembroke, Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie, London, Muskoka—Kawarthas, Northeast, Northwest, Ottawa, Stratford—Bruce Peninsula, Toronto and Windsor—Sarnia.

OVERVIEW

Labour Force Trends – Ontario employment declined notably in July

- Employment in Ontario decreased by 36,100 in July, following a decline of 4,200 in June
- Both full-time employment (-18,900) and part-time employment (-17,100) fell over the month
- The unemployment rate remained stable at 6.4% from the previous month, due to a drop in the labour force

Employment in Ontario fell by 36,100 (-0.5%) in July, the third monthly decline over the past four months, with the losses spread out over both full-time employment (-18,900) and part-time employment (-17,100). The provincial unemployment rate remained steady at 6.4% from June, despite a small increase in unemployment (+2,500) and a decrease in the labour force (-33,400). The fall in the labour force contributed to the province's participation rate dropping by 0.4 percentage points to 64.6%, the lowest in Ontario since September 1977.

In Canada, employment decreased by 31,200 in July, with an increase in part-time work (+40,200) negated by a large decline in full-time work (-71,400). The latest data on manufacturing sales and building permits also showed weaknesses nationally. The loss in employment ran contrary to expectations by economists, who had anticipated Canada's economy would add about 10,000 in employment over the month.¹ A large portion of the employment gains in public administration in May, due partly to the undertaking of the federal census, were lost in July. The national unemployment rate inched up slightly to 6.9%.

In the United States, total non-farm payroll employment increased by 255,000 in July, continuing the strong recovery in June. This increase surpassed the surveyed expectations of economists, who had predicted a gain of

¹ CBC News Staff. (2016, August 5). [Canada sheds 31,200 jobs in July, unemployment rate rises to 6.9%](http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/jobs-canada-july-1.3708611). CBC News. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/jobs-canada-july-1.3708611>

182,000 in employment.² The federal unemployment rate remained steady at 4.9%. Average hourly earnings increased by 2.6% from July 2015 to July 2016, another indication of a positive labour market in the U.S. However, the participation rate has hovered at historically low levels, at 62.8% in July. Despite this, the job report has renewed optimism about the American labour market, and the U.S. Federal Reserve may raise its benchmark interest rate as early as September.³

Between July 2015 and July 2016, employment in Ontario increased by 23,900, with gains in both full-time and part-time employment. The unemployment rate inched down by 0.1 percentage point, as unemployment decreased by 2,800. However, the participation rate dropped by 0.6 percentage points, as the increase in labour force (+0.3%) did not keep up with the increase in population (+1.2%).

The Ontario unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 increased by 0.6 percentage points to 14.2% from June to July, with unemployment increasing by 6,000. Both the participation rate and the employment rate fell over the month. The provincial youth unemployment rate was higher than the national youth unemployment rate of 13.3% in July. However, Ontario's youth unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage points lower than it was 12 months ago.

During the summer months, Statistics Canada collects labour market data on youths aged 15 to 24 who were full-time students in March and plan to return to school full-time in the fall. Among these students, employment fell by 9,100 (-1.8%) from 12 months ago to 508,500 in July. However, the unemployment rate among these students fell by 2.0 percentage points to 16.7% as unemployment fell sharply, although the participation rate also fell slightly over the year. The provincial full-time student unemployment rate was similar to the national figure of 16.4%.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics

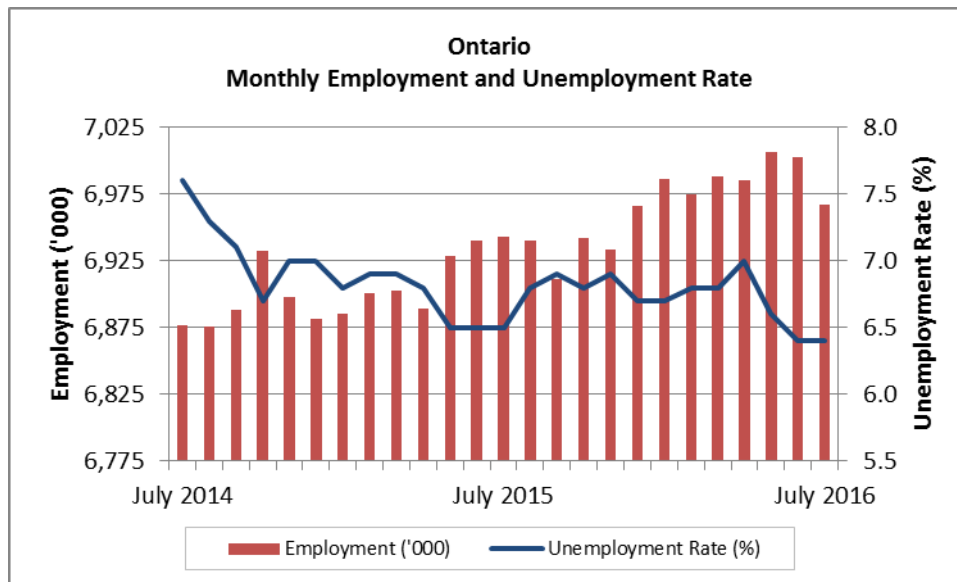
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2016	June 2016	July 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	11,531.4	11,515.2	11,390.4	16.2	0.1	141.0	1.2
Labour Force ('000)	7,447.0	7,480.4	7,425.8	-33.4	-0.4	21.2	0.3
Employment ('000)	6,966.6	7,002.7	6,942.7	-36.1	-0.5	23.9	0.3
Full-Time ('000)	5,663.6	5,682.5	5,645.4	-18.9	-0.3	18.2	0.3
Part-Time ('000)	1,303.1	1,320.2	1,297.2	-17.1	-1.3	5.9	0.5
Unemployment ('000)	480.3	477.8	483.1	2.5	0.5	-2.8	-0.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.4	6.4	6.5	0.0	-	-0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.6	65.0	65.2	-0.4	-	-0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.4	60.8	61.0	-0.4	-	-0.6	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

² Gillespie, P. (2016, August 5). **Strong: U.S. economy adds 255,000 jobs in July.** *CNNMoney*. Retrieved from <http://money.cnn.com/2016/08/05/news/economy/us-economy-july-jobs-report/index.html>

³ Harrison, D. (2016, August 5). **WSJ Analysis: Jobs Report Keeps Fed on Track for Rate Increase.** *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.wsj.com/articles/wsj-analysis-jobs-report-keep-fed-on-track-for-rate-increase-1470401378>



Ontario Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2016	June 2016	July 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	6.4	6.4	6.5	0.0	-0.1
25 years and over	5.1	5.2	5.1	-0.1	0.0
Men - 25 years and over	5.2	5.2	5.1	0.0	0.1
Women - 25 years and over	5.1	5.2	5.0	-0.1	0.1
15 to 24 years	14.2	13.6	14.8	0.6	-0.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.1	16.7	16.4	-0.6	-0.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	12.3	10.4	13.1	1.9	-0.8

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment growth in the goods-producing sector driven by gains in manufacturing

Employment in Ontario's goods-producing sector expanded by 13,800 in July, after a decrease of 18,600 in June. Month-over-month gains were recorded in manufacturing (+13,000), utilities (+3,100), and agriculture (+1,300), while losses were recorded in construction (-3,100) and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-400).

Numerous factory expansions and announcements of funding for new projects supported employment growth in **manufacturing** in July, although employment levels in the industry have fluctuated through 2016. A number of manufacturing indicators, such as provincial manufacturing sales and the RBC Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), have fallen slightly in recent months. Manufacturing sales have either remained flat or declined for four consecutive months, while lower client demand has resulted in Ontario's manufacturers reporting a slow pace of production growth for 2016 so far. Nevertheless, the PMI remained in expansionary territory for Ontario. Some expansions announced by manufacturers across Ontario in July included Startech.com adding floor space

and looking to add 200 employees in London,⁴ and record production plant Precision Record Pressing opening in Burlington.⁵ Manufacturers also secured a number of new contracts and grants, including BWXT Canada Ltd. in Cambridge,⁶ Ontario Northland in North Bay,⁷ Strathcona Energy Group Inc. in Belleville,⁸ and Cimpress N.V. in Tecumseh.⁹ Bioindustrial Innovation Canada (BIC) also received a \$12M investment from the Government of Canada to support the clean technologies industrial sector in Sarnia-Lambton, creating an estimated 478 jobs.¹⁰

Employment in **construction** declined in July for the fourth time in five months. However, a 3.4% year-over-year increase in building permit values in May,¹¹ and higher housing starts, up by 52.2% in June from 12 months ago¹² should boost this sector going forward. In addition, there were a number of funding announcements for new infrastructure projects across the province in July, including \$37M in contracts for northeastern Ontario road-work;¹³ \$20M to build electric vehicle charging stations at 250 locations across Ontario;¹⁴ \$27.6M for safety-related upgrades across Canada, including 7 northern Ontario community airports;¹⁵ and \$34.4M for rail infra-

⁴ DeBono, N. (2016, July 4). **London's Startech.com adding floor space, jobs as sales rise in markets from Europe to Japan.** *The London Free Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.lfpress.com/2016/07/04/londons-startechcom-adding-floor-space-jobs-as-sales-rise-in-markets-from-europe-to-japan>

⁵ Carter, A. (2016, July 11). **New Ontario vinyl plant aims to be 2nd largest in North America.** *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/news/burlington-record-plant-1.3673610>

⁶ CBC News Staff. (2016, July 12). **BWXT Canada signs \$130M steam generator contract with Bruce Power.** *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/bwxt-canada-bruce-power-steam-generator-1.3675231>

⁷ North Bay Nugget Staff. (2016, July 14). **ONR lands \$20-million contract; up to 80 new jobs.** *North Bay Nugget*. Retrieved from <http://www.nugget.ca/2016/07/14/onr-lands-20-million-contract-up-to-80-new-jobs>

⁸ Government of Canada, Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario). (2016, July 27). **FedDev Ontario Supports Expansion Activities for Belleville Clean Technology Manufacturer.** Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1104789>

⁹ Government of Ontario, Ministry of Economic Development and Growth. (2016, July 20). **Ontario Partners with Cimpress to Create Manufacturing Jobs in Windsor.** Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/medt/en/2016/07/ontario-partners-with-cimpress-to-create-manufacturing-jobs-in-windsor.html>

¹⁰ Government of Canada, Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario). (2016, July 25). **Government of Canada Invests \$12M to Support Bio-Based Innovation in Sarnia.** Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=1&nid=1103989&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=sarnia&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>

¹¹ Statistics Canada. (2016, August 5). **CANSIM Table 026-0003, Building permits, values by activity sector, monthly (dollars x 1,000).** Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=0260003&&pattern=&stByVal=1&p1=1&p2=-1&tabMode=dataTable&csid=>

¹² Statistics Canada. (2016, August 5). **CANSIM Table 027-0054, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts, all areas, Canada and provinces, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, monthly (units x 1,000).** Retrieved from <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&retrLang=eng&id=0270054&&pattern=&stByVal=1&p1=1&p2=-1&tabMode=dataTable&csid=>

¹³ Northern Ontario Business Staff. (2016, June 29). **Province awards \$37 million in road contracts.** *Northern Ontario Business*. Retrieved from [http://www.northernontariobusiness.com/Industry-News/construction/2016/06/Province-awards-\\$37-million-in-road-contracts.aspx](http://www.northernontariobusiness.com/Industry-News/construction/2016/06/Province-awards-$37-million-in-road-contracts.aspx)

¹⁴ Government of Ontario, Ministry of Transportation. (2016, July 13). **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Coming Soon Province Unveils Over 250 Convenient Charging Locations.** Retrieved from <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2016/07/electric-vehicle-charging-stations-coming-soon.html>

¹⁵ Government of Canada, Transport Canada. (2016, July 20). **Government of Canada Investing in Safety at Regional Airports.** Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&crtr.page=2&nid=1101649>

structure improvements in the Windsor-Quebec City rail corridor.¹⁶ These trends suggest construction employment may grow as projects continue to get underway.

Over the past 12 months, employment in the goods-producing sector grew by 9,300, as gains were registered in manufacturing (+9,200), construction (+6,800), agriculture (+5,700), and utilities (+500). Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas was the only goods-producing industry to record a loss (-12,800) over the year.

Services-producing sector employment falls due to weakening in the educational services industry

Ontario's services-producing sector recorded a decline of 49,900 in July, the largest loss in the sector since November 2008. This was driven mainly by losses in the educational services industry, which declined by 37,800, as declining enrollments at secondary¹⁷ and post-secondary¹⁸ schools have led to the announcement of multiple school closures over the last six months across the province.^{19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26}

Other notable employment losses in the sector included **public administration** (-8,900), which partly reflects the conclusion of data collection for Statistics Canada's 2016 census.^{27,28} The **finance, insurance, real estate, rental,**

¹⁶ Government of Canada, Transport Canada. (2016, July 22). **The Government of Canada and VIA Rail Canada announce funding for infrastructure to improve quality of service for travellers.** Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=4&nid=1103299&crtr.tp1D=1>

¹⁷ Government of Ontario, Ministry of Education. (2016, February 16). **Education Facts, 2014-2015.** Retrieved from <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/educationfacts.html>

¹⁸ Brown, L. (2014, September 22). **Ontario university enrolment down for first time in 15 years.** *The Toronto Star*. Retrieved from http://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/education/2014/09/22/ontario_university_enrolment_down_for_first_time_in_15_years.html

¹⁹ Giorno, F. (2016, March 24). **Haileybury Public School to close permanently June 30, 2016.** *Timmins Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.timminstoday.com/local-news/haileybury-public-school-to-close-permanently-june-30-2016-269995>

²⁰ Kelly, B. (2016, June 12). **Algoma U cuts 9 jobs.** *Sault Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.saultstar.com/2016/06/12/algoma-u-cuts-9-jobs>

²¹ Rushowy, K. (2016, March 9). **TDSB approves cutting teacher jobs as enrolment dips.** *The Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <http://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/education/2016/03/09/tdsb-approves-cutting-teacher-jobs-as-enrolment-dips.html>

²² Leitner, R. (2016, April 22). **Declining school enrolment in Hamilton to cost another 70 teacher jobs.** *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/6510620-declining-school-enrolment-in-hamilton-to-cost-another-70-teacher-jobs/>

²³ Kovach, J. (2016, April 14). **Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board issues layoff notices for 109 public high school teachers in Peterborough area over declining enrolment.** *The Peterborough Examiner*. Retrieved from <http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2016/04/14/kawartha-pine-ridge-district-school-board-issues-layoff-notices-for-109-public-high-school-teachers-in-peterborough-area-over-declining-enrolment>

²⁴ Owen Sound Sun Times Staff. (2016, May 1). **Layoff notices for Bluewater ed assistants.** *Owen Sound Sun Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/2016/05/01/layoff-notices-for-bluewater-ed-assistants>

²⁵ Thomson, R. (2016, April 6). **Catholic board votes to close three schools.** *AM800*. Retrieved from <http://www.am800cklw.com/News/Headlines/Catholic-board-votes-to-close-three-schools>

²⁶ Waddell, D. (2016, June 20). **Catholic school board issues 70 teacher layoff notices.** *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/catholic-school-board-issues-70-teacher-layoff-notices>

²⁷ Government of Canada, Statistics Canada. (2016, April 29). **Crew Leader - Census jobs across Canada.** Retrieved from http://www.census.gc.ca/ccr16d/ccr16d-03/ccr16d-03_002a-eng.html

²⁸ Government of Canada, Statistics Canada. (2016, April 29). **Enumerator - Census jobs across Canada.** Retrieved from http://www.census.gc.ca/ccr16d/ccr16d-03/ccr16d-03_002a-eng.html

and leasing industry also recorded a loss (-7,600), with the industry witnessing a number of branch closures and layoff announcements from banks over the past few months.^{29,30,31}

The **business, building and other support services** industry recorded the largest gain (+6,200) in the sector, supported by expansions at a number of call centres across the province.^{32,33} The **wholesale and retail trade** industry expanded as well (+4,100), with several retail openings announced in July, including Indochino in Toronto,³⁴ a new Sobeys in London,³⁵ and a new Lowe's in Thunder Bay.³⁶ However, employment growth was tempered by the closure of 2 Taschen! stores in Toronto, while Ben Moss filed for bankruptcy protection in July, which will impact 19 stores across Ontario over the coming months.^{37,38}

Over the past 12 months, employment in the services-producing sector grew by 14,700. The health care and social assistance (+32,400), information, culture, and recreation (+13,300), and accommodation and food services (+12,700) industries led the province in growth, but employment gains in the sector were moderated by declines in educational services (-51,200), finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing (-3,100), and wholesale and retail trade (-2,500).

²⁹ Posadzki, A. (2016, May 26). **BMO to lay off 1,850, but raises dividend**. *The Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/business/2016/05/25/bmos-profit-falls-but-dividend-raised.html>

³⁰ Aylmer Express Staff. (2016, May 23). **Belmont Scotiabank closing**. *Aylmer Express*. Retrieved from <http://aylmerexpress.com/2016/05/belmont-scotiabank-closing/>

³¹ Critchley, B. (2016, June 21). **Bank of Montreal is cutting brokers in dribs and drabs**. *The National Post*. Retrieved from <http://business.financialpost.com/investing/investing-pro/bank-of-montreal-is-cutting-brokers-in-dribs-and-drabs>

³² Fraser, D. (2016, June 14). **Sitel in hiring mode, to add 180 jobs**. *St. Catharines Standard*. Retrieved from <http://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/2016/06/14/sitel-in-hiring-mode-to-add-180-jobs>

³³ Minacs Staff. (2016, May 27). **Minacs to Add 685 Jobs Across Ontario in Next Five Months**. *Minacs*. Retrieved from http://www.minacs.com/about/company/newsroom/minacs-to-add-685-jobs-across-ontario-in-next-five-months#at_pco=smlwn-1.0&at_si=574de03fd1516815&at_ab=per-2&at_pos=0&at_tot=1

³⁴ Market Wired Staff. (2016, July 11). **INDOCHINO Continues to Suit Up Canada**. *Market Wired*. Retrieved from <http://www.marketwired.com/press-release/indochino-continues-to-suit-up-canada-2141231.htm>

³⁵ CTV London Staff. (2016, July 5). **New Sobeys store to hold job fair**. *CTV London*. Retrieved from <http://london.ctvnews.ca/new-sobeys-store-to-hold-job-fair-1.2974305>

³⁶ Thunder Bay NewsWatch Staff. (2016, July 5). **Local Lowe's store set for August grand opening**. *Thunder Bay NewsWatch*. Retrieved from http://www.tbnewsWatch.com/news/391205/Local_Lowe's_store_set_for_August_grand_opening

³⁷ Retail Insider Staff. (2016, July 19). **Taschen! Shuttters Stores Amid Bankruptcy Proceedings**. *Retail Insider*. Retrieved from <http://www.retail-insider.com/retail-insider/2016/7/taschen>

³⁸ CBC News Staff. (2016, July 31). **Winnipeg-based jewelry chain Ben Moss closing doors across the country**. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-based-jewelry-chain-ben-moss-closes-1.3702689?cmp=rss>

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2016	June 2016	July 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	6,966.6	7,002.7	6,942.7	-36.1	-0.5	23.9	0.3
Goods-producing sector	1,421.4	1,407.6	1,412.1	13.8	1.0	9.3	0.7
Agriculture	79.6	78.3	73.9	1.3	1.7	5.7	7.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	34.2	34.6	47.0	-0.4	-1.2	-12.8	-27.2
Utilities	50.7	47.6	50.2	3.1	6.5	0.5	1.0
Construction	499.6	502.7	492.8	-3.1	-0.6	6.8	1.4
Manufacturing	757.4	744.4	748.2	13.0	1.7	9.2	1.2
Services-producing sector	5,545.2	5,595.1	5,530.5	-49.9	-0.9	14.7	0.3
Trade	1,041.8	1,037.7	1,044.3	4.1	0.4	-2.5	-0.2
Transportation and warehousing	321.7	323.6	321.2	-1.9	-0.6	0.5	0.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	549.8	557.4	552.9	-7.6	-1.4	-3.1	-0.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	597.0	601.1	590.4	-4.1	-0.7	6.6	1.1
Business, building and other support services	329.3	323.1	327.5	6.2	1.9	1.8	0.5
Educational services	467.2	505.0	518.4	-37.8	-7.5	-51.2	-9.9
Health care and social assistance	840.8	836.8	808.4	4.0	0.5	32.4	4.0
Information, culture and recreation	323.9	325.5	310.6	-1.6	-0.5	13.3	4.3
Accommodation and food services	455.6	454.5	442.9	1.1	0.2	12.7	2.9
Other services	275.3	278.5	274.8	-3.2	-1.1	0.5	0.2
Public administration	343.0	351.9	339.2	-8.9	-2.5	3.8	1.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Toronto remained the engine of growth for Ontario

The **Toronto** economic region led employment growth in Ontario with a gain of 56,400 between July 2015 and July 2016 (measured on a year-over-year seasonally unadjusted basis). Employment rose year-over-year for the fourth month in a row in the region. The Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) remains one of Canada's most robust housing markets. Total housing starts were up by 1.3% in the CMA over the first six months of 2016 compared with the same period last year,³⁹ with the construction of new condominium buildings in the downtown core the main driver of growth.⁴⁰ Although there is some concern about the volume of condominium pro-

³⁹ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2016, July). **Preliminary Housing Start Data - Table 2**. *Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation*. Retrieved from <https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/catalog/productDetail.cfm?cat=58&itm=1&lang=en&fr=1470329514937>

⁴⁰ Wong, C. (2016, July 11). **Toronto condos boost national pace of housing construction: CMHC**. *Metro News*. Retrieved from <http://www.metronews.ca/news/canada/2016/07/11/cmhc-says-the-annual-pace-of-housing-starts-in-canada-picked-up-in-june.html>

jects in Toronto, about 94 per cent of all units that were under construction or completed were off the market by the end of 2015.⁴¹

Outside of the housing market, new infrastructure developments took shape over the course of July. The Government of Ontario will spend \$41M to repair and update schools in York Region, with 50 projects underway.⁴² The region also welcomed two large investment announcements that will help support scientific research and jobs. York University and partners, Southlake Regional Health Centre, and the University Health Network jointly received \$34.5M towards the development of medical technologies.⁴³ Meanwhile, along with funding from the provincial and federal governments, the University of Toronto will invest a total of \$189.8M to enhance research labs across its facilities.⁴⁴

Employment grew in the **Kingston–Pembroke** economic region by 12,800 over the past year. Employment has steadily picked up in the region throughout the first seven months of 2016. The unemployment rate fell to 5.7%, its lowest point since December 2015. Along with improved labour market conditions, there were a few positive announcements that will support jobs in the region over the short term. Pillar5 Pharma Inc. will invest \$4M at its Arnprior manufacturing plant, creating 50 jobs that will start in January 2017.⁴⁵ The Government of Canada announced that it would provide \$11.6M towards the construction of a water treatment plant at Slate Falls First Nation.⁴⁶ Further, the Government of Canada awarded Pacific Safety Products Inc. of Arnprior a \$33M contract to supply equipment for the Canadian Armed Forces.⁴⁷ The company expects to deliver the initial order over the next 24 months.

There was a fair bit of activity in some of the key industries in **Windsor–Sarnia**, driving the region's employment up by 1,200. To help support Sarnia's sustainable chemical base, the Government of Canada announced that it would invest \$12M in Bioindustrial Innovation Canada, which will lead to 478 full-time equivalent jobs.⁴⁸ On top of this, BIOX Corporation stated that it would slowly restart an idled biodiesel plant, expected to create between 15 to 20 local jobs.⁴⁹ The agriculture and agri-food industry also got a boost with some new developments. Union Gas Limited started construction on a pipeline expansion that will increase natural gas delivery to local agribusinesses.⁵⁰ The project is valued at \$12.3M. Later in July, Caesars Windsor announced that it would work with

⁴¹ The Canadian Press. (2016, July 19). **Toronto's condo builders take conservative path to more supply: CMHC.** *Metro News*. Retrieved from <http://www.metronews.ca/news/canada/2016/07/19/toronto-condo-builders-have-taken-conservative-path-to-adding-supply-cmhc.html>

⁴² Greenberg, C. (2016, July 5). **Province says \$41M will be used to repair York Region schools.** *CTV News*. Retrieved from <http://toronto.ctvnews.ca/province-says-41m-will-be-used-to-repair-york-region-schools-1.2974096>

⁴³ Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2016, July 21). **FedDev Ontario Invests in Healthcare Innovation.** *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1102419>

⁴⁴ Campion-Smith, B. (2016, July 28). **U of T to get \$98 million for lab upgrades.** *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2016/07/28/u-of-t-to-get-98-million-for-lab-upgrades.html>

⁴⁵ Ottawa Valley Business Group. (2016, July 5). **Pillar5 Pharma Adding Jobs.** *Ottawa Valley Business Group*. Retrieved from <http://www.ovbusiness.com/userfiles/file/2016%20Issues/Ottawa%20Valley%20Businesses%20-%20July%205,%202016.pdf>

⁴⁶ CNW. (2016, July 11). **Government of Canada and Slate Falls Nation Partner to Provide Clean, Safe Drinking Water.** *CNW Group Ltd.* Retrieved from <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-and-slate-falls-nation-partner-to-provide-clean-safe-drinking-water-586314571.html>

⁴⁷ Arnprior Today. (2016, July 5). **Pacific Safety Products Nets 33 Million Dollar Contract.** *Arnpriortoday.ca*. Retrieved from http://www.arnpriortoday.ca/default.asp?pid=9139179&wireid=02575_AR-VestDeal1web_083457

⁴⁸ Baynton, R. (2016, July 28). **FedDev Investment Could Mean More Bio-Based Industries For Sarnia–Lambton.** *BlackburnNews.com*. Retrieved from <http://blackburnnews.com/agrimedia/agrimedia-news/2016/07/28/feddev-investment-mean-bio-based-industries-sarnia-lambton/>

⁴⁹ Michaels, L. (2016, June 24). **Expansion Plans At Newly Sold Methes Energies.** *BlackburnNews.com*. Retrieved from <https://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2016/06/24/expansion-plans-newly-sold-methes-energies/>

⁵⁰ Vlasveld, M. (2016, July 6). **New Pipeline Big For Local Agribusiness.** *BlackburnNews.com*. Retrieved from <https://blackburnnews.com/windsor/windsor-news/2016/07/06/new-pipeline-big-local-agribusiness/>

a farm in Essex County to source local produce for its restaurants.⁵¹ And with a healthy crop of homegrown vegetables this season, Bonduelle Canada Inc. would like to add 80 to 100 seasonal workers to its food processing plant in Tecumseh.⁵² Lastly, one of Windsor's oldest employers extended its lifeline by nearly 50 years.⁵³ K+S Windsor Salt Ltd. stated that it would embark on a five-year \$60M plan to upgrade and extend salt mine operations at its Ojibway site until about 2063.

Employment rose in both the **Northeast** and **Northwest** economic regions over the past year. While lower base metal prices have put the brakes on some northern Ontario mining projects, there was a positive turn in the local industry in July. Goldcorp Porcupine Gold Mines announced that it would extend the life of its Dome Mine in Timmins, which was set to close later this year.⁵⁴ The decision comes as gold prices rally because of greater uncertainty in the world markets post-Brexit. There was also a major announcement from a long-standing North Bay manufacturer. Ontario Northland received a four-year \$20M contract to refurbish Rocky Mountaineer passenger rail cars for CANARAIL.⁵⁵ This will lead to 50 immediate jobs, with another 30 expected throughout the project.

Elsewhere in the province, employment rose in the **Ottawa** economic region between July 2015 and July 2016. All of the gains were in full-time positions. PiiComm Inc. opened its third office in the Ottawa area in July, which will allow the mobility solutions provider to expand its workforce by about 40 per cent.⁵⁶

Labour market conditions were weakest in central Ontario in July

Employment fell or was relatively unchanged in five economic regions between July 2015 and July 2016. Labour market conditions remained flat in the **London** and **Muskoka–Kawarthas** economic regions while **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula**, **Stratford–Bruce Peninsula**, and **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** took noticeable dips.

Employment dropped by 15,200 in the **Hamilton–Niagara Peninsula** economic region since July 2015. At the same time, the regional unemployment rate jumped 0.5 percentage points to 6.4%. Despite these softer results, others indicators point to healthier economic activity in the region. Building permits and housing starts are performing well⁵⁷ and several big manufacturing-related announcements came out of the area in July. Precision Record Pressing Inc. will open a manufacturing plant in Burlington in August that will employ 200 workers,⁵⁸ while Ferrero Canada Ltd. will invest \$36.1M in its Brantford plant to expand its product line, which will create 55

⁵¹ Thorne, L. (2016, July 27). **Lee & Maria's Farm Partners With Caesars Windsor**. *windsoriteDOTca*. Retrieved from <http://windsorite.ca/2016/07/lee-marias-farm-partners-with-caesars-windsor/>

⁵² Medeiros, T. (2016, July 13). **Bonduelle In Tecumseh Is Hiring**. *AM800 CKLW*. Retrieved from <http://www.am800cklw.com/News/Headlines/Bonduelle-In-Tecumseh-Is-Hiring>

⁵³ Wilhelm, T. (2016, July 25). **Ojibway salt mine's \$60M expansion 'good news for Windsor'**. *Windsor Star*. Retrieved from <http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/ojibway-salt-mine-to-undergo-60-million-expansion>

⁵⁴ Gillis, L. (2016, July 20). **Dome Mine to continue to the end of 2016 and beyond**. *Timmins Press*. Retrieved from <http://www.timminspress.com/2016/07/20/dome-mine-to-continue-to-the-end-of-2016-and-beyond>

⁵⁵ Dawson, C. (2016, July 15). **Union optimistic after 50 ONR jobs announced**. *Bay Today*. Retrieved from <https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/union-optimistic-after-50-onr-jobs-announced-337876>

⁵⁶ OBJ Staff. (2016, July 12). **PiiComm opens third office in Ottawa region**. *Ottawa Business Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.obj.ca/Technology/2016-07-12/article-4585578/PiiComm-opens-third-office-in-Ottawa-region/1>

⁵⁷ Zamperin, R. (2016, July 11). **Busy first half of 2016 for local homebuilders**. *AM900 CHML*. Retrieved from <http://www.900chml.com/2016/07/11/77516/>

Hamilton Spectator. (2016, July 26). **Building permit activity in Hamilton is still hot**. *The Hamilton Spectator*. Retrieved from <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/6784461-building-permit-activity-in-hamilton-is-still-hot/>

⁵⁸ Carter, A. (2016, July 11). **New Ontario vinyl plant aims to be 2nd largest in North America**. *CBC*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/news/burlington-record-plant-1.3673610>

jobs.⁵⁹ To help build manufacturing capacity, McMaster University received an \$11.96M investment from the Government of Canada for a biomedical engineering and advanced manufacturing centre, which will lead to 74 jobs.⁶⁰

Employment in the **Kitchener–Waterloo–Barrie** region also stalled in July. Both the regional participation and employment rates declined over the 12-month period. One of Cambridge's largest employers made headlines this summer. BWXT Canada Ltd. recently announced that it would lay off 24 workers because of weaker revenue from coal-related goods and delayed oil sands projects.⁶¹ However, the company then followed with a positive development later on, as it signed a \$130M contract with Bruce Power to supply steam generators for the Tiverton nuclear generating plant.⁶² This project will sustain more than 100 jobs in the region over the next few years.

Ontario Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2016 ('000)	July 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2016 (%)	July 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Ontario	7,090.8	7,032.3	0.8	6.5	6.8	-0.3
Economic Regions						
Ottawa	701.1	695.4	0.8	6.7	6.8	-0.1
Kingston—Pembroke	218.5	205.7	6.2	5.7	7.3	-1.6
Muskoka—Kawartha	165.3	166.0	-0.4	7.7	7.2	0.5
Toronto	3,422.6	3,366.2	1.7	6.8	7.4	-0.6
Kitchener—Waterloo—Barrie	712.3	716.6	-0.6	5.5	5.1	0.4
Hamilton—Niagara Peninsula	721.7	736.9	-2.1	6.4	5.9	0.5
London	339.8	339.6	0.1	6.4	5.3	1.1
Windsor—Sarnia	307.8	304.1	1.2	6.6	8.0	-1.4
Stratford—Bruce Peninsula	142.7	149.6	-4.6	4.2	5.4	-1.2
Northeast	258.2	253.6	1.8	6.9	7.7	-0.8
Northwest	100.8	98.5	2.3	6.7	6.2	0.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122

Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

⁵⁹ Bell, V. (2016, July 28). Ferrero expands its product lines. *Brantford Expositor*. Retrieved from <http://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/2016/07/28/ferrero-expands-its-product-lines>

⁶⁰ Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. (2016, July 27). FedDev Ontario Invests in Biomedical Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Centre. *Government of Canada*. Retrieved from <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1104469>

⁶¹ CTV Kitchener. (2016, June 29). Babcock and Wilcox laying off 24 workers in Cambridge. *CTV News*. Retrieved from <http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/babcock-and-wilcox-laying-off-24-workers-in-cambridge-1.2967199>

⁶² CBC News. (2016, July 12). BWXT Canada signs \$130M steam generator contract with Bruce Power. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/bwxt-canada-bruce-power-steam-generator-1.3675231>

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For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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